

S E C O N D

14 October 1965

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Castro's New Emigration Policy

1. Castro's motives in his new emigration policy seem to be mixed. On the one hand, he is facilitating the institutionalization of his regime by removing socially unproductive elements, along with malcontents. At the same time, he is attempting to put the best face on a bad situation -- the continuing desire of large numbers to leave the country -- by sponsoring a reasonably civilized exodus. In the short run Castro evidently is willing to suffer whatever black eye such an exodus will mean, perhaps in the hope of effecting a longer-range improvement in his image by reducing the likelihood of hazardous clandestine escapes with the bad press they entail.

2. As an additional motive, Castro may hope to bring some measure of relief to the hard-pressed Cuban economy. By ridding itself of the more non-productive elements of society -- the very old, the ill, & the very young -- the Cuban regime is easing the burden -- least to some extent. For example, if the State-NEW estimate of 42,500 potential emigres

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(based on applications already filed by relatives in the US) is borne out, as many as 10,000 housing units could be freed.

3. The burden of accepting and supporting any Cuban who wishes to come here is on the US. No provision was made to get the US Government's consent to the influx. Castro even made a point of the fact that it was Washington which had halted the twice-daily Cuban refugee flights to Miami which took place up to the time of the Cuban missile crisis in October 1962.

4. Cuban media have emphasized that the initiative for renewing emigration was wholly Cuban, that all arrangements and conveniences are being provided for those who wish to leave, and that the US, for its part, has not acceded to Castro's suggestions for aiding the flow -- for example, that he provide twice-daily flights to Miami.

5. Of the approximately 200 recent arrivals in Miami, most have been elderly slum dwellers from Havana. Many are illiterate. Of 35 who arrived together on 13 October, 13 were 60 years of age or older (several were over 80), two were mentally retarded, one was deaf, and two were children. No males between the ages of 15 and 26 are being permitted to leave.

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6. Castro's decision with regard to these exiles is in line with a series of other recent actions which he calculates will improve the prospects for the long-range development of his socialist society. These moves have included the establishment of new Soviet-type party institutions and the ouster of Che Guevara, whose impractical and revolutionary concepts had come to be a source of controversy and an impediment to "orderly progress."

Prepared by: [REDACTED]

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WH/C

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SUBJECT	Castro's New Emigration Policy			
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